

stages of the predators are smaller. There has been no particular term applied to such observations as yet and, therefore, the term 'reciprocal predation' is proposed hereby. Reciprocal predation in general can be defined as predation by a prey species on the young stages of its predator species.

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17. SIGHT RECORD OF *SERINUS PUSILLUS* AT MANANG, CENTRAL NEPAL

On 17 November 1981 we observed an adult Red-fronted Serin (*Serinus pusillus*) at about 3960 m near Manang, central Nepal (approx. 28°50'N, 83°55'E). The bird was first seen at 1540 hours at a distance of about 2.4 m, perched in a small thorn bush (*Carangana* sp.) on an arid scrub-covered hill side. It was noted as a small, heavily streaked finch, with a dark face and red forehead but colours were difficult to determine as we were looking into the sun. It was flushed after about half a minute and flew off down the slope accompanied by a second bird. It was relocated after a minute about 10 m away and was observed for a further minute perched in a thorn bush and on the ground. The red 'guardsman's cap' top to the head and dark face were very conspicuous; the body was a

pale yellowish background colour, heavily streaked dark brown; the pale orange-yellow rump was obvious in flight. The second bird was only observed briefly and appeared to be similar to the first.

The Red-fronted Serin ranges across the mountains of Asia Minor as far east as the north-western Himalayas, Ladak and Kashmir (Paynter 1968, Hie and Etchécopar 1970). Flemming *et al.* (1979) record it as "fairly common" in North Nepal occurring "as far east as the Kali Gandaki", which they regard as a biogeographical division between Eastern and Western species. Our record appears to be the most easterly of the species in Nepal, being to the east of the Kali Gandaki Valley and separated from it by a spur of mountains running north from Annapurna Himalaya.

C/O 44 THE RIDGEWAY,
TONBRIDGE,
KENT TN 10 4NJ,
ENGLAND,
June 22, 1982.

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18. OCCURRENCE OF *EMBERIZA CIA* NEAR PUNE

The occurrence of Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*) has been recorded on four instances since 1977 near Pune. A single bird was observed on all occasions. A photographic evidence to confirm though not of good quality, was obtained on one of the occasions. The details of occurrence and habitat are as below.

Occurrence:

Date	Place	Location from Pune	Altitude
3rd June, 1977	Katraj	8 kms South	Between
22nd July, 1980	Khambataki	60 kms South	650-700
5th March, 1981	Bopadeo	8 kms South	metres.
18th June, 1981	Katraj	8 kms South	

Habitat:

All the above places happen to be near Ghat roads. The northern slopes of these Ghats (where all four birds were seen in the various instances) are gradually sloping and are at lower altitudes as compared to their respective southerly slopes. The birds were seen on stony barren slopes at the base of the hills. The habitat in general was stony scrub jungle.

Field Characteristics:

The typical black bands on the forehead, crown and cheeks together with bluish-grey chest confirmed with the field characteristics of a Rock Bunting. The bird seen in the month of July showed rich chestnut-brown breeding plumage. The sex identification, however, could not be done in the field.

Behaviour:

The solitary birds were seen eating grass seeds and calling 'chee-up chee-up' during their short dipping flights. They were often seen on almost vertical walls of loose red soil (Red bowl) on rocky clefts.

Typical birds seen in the Habitat:

Crested Bunting (common resident), Grey-necked Bunting (winter visitor, found to stay back till late June), finch larks, Whitebellied Minivet, Painted Sandgrouse.

123 KASBA PETH,
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November 6, 1981.

SHRIKANT INGALHALIKAR